



Parkwide Campground Study

What is this project about?

In November 2001, Congress directed the National Park Service to complete “a study of the potential for expanded opportunities for additional camping in Yosemite National Park” by December 2002.

What will the study involve?

The goal of the Parkwide Campground Study is to examine current campgrounds and their potential for expansion, as well as locate areas for possible new campgrounds. The study will be guided by the *General Management Plan*, the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*, and the *Yosemite Valley Plan*, as well as scientific data on natural and cultural resources.

The *General Management Plan* states that

Yosemite will continue to provide for a wide range of camping opportunities...Some sites will be relocated to zones more suitable for man's activities in order to protect sensitive resources and increase manageability. Consistent with this policy, campgrounds will be dispersed more evenly throughout the park and redesigned to allow for adequate revegetation.

Any examination of campgrounds along the Merced River corridor will follow the management elements outlined in the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*, including adhering to zoning prescriptions which allow for camping.

Field evaluations were completed throughout the park during July and August of 2002. Data analysis and public review and comment was conducted from June through September. The report to Congress was transmitted to Washington D.C. by December 2002 (as mandated) and is currently under review.

How is this study different from the campground actions called for in the Yosemite Valley Plan?

Congress also directed the National Park Service to move expeditiously on a number of *Yosemite Valley Plan* and flood recovery projects. One such action calls for the expansion of campgrounds in the east Valley in order to replace flood-damaged sites. The *Yosemite Valley Plan* calls for not only the relocation of sites, but also the future ecological restoration of flood-damaged campgrounds located in the floodplain of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. The Parkwide Campground Study will examine opportunities for additional campsites *outside* of Yosemite Valley.

Public Participation

Public participation is essential to this study and there will be several ways to get involved:

- Watch the park's planning web site (www.nps.gov/yose/planning) for more information as the study process moves forward.
- If directed to proceed with campground expansion and development by Congress, the public will be asked to review and comment on an environmental impact statement for this project.
- Sign up for the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning-related notices.

Mail: Superintendent
Attn: Parkwide Campground Study
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379-1294

Email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov

The status of this and other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online: www.nps.gov/yose/planning.